

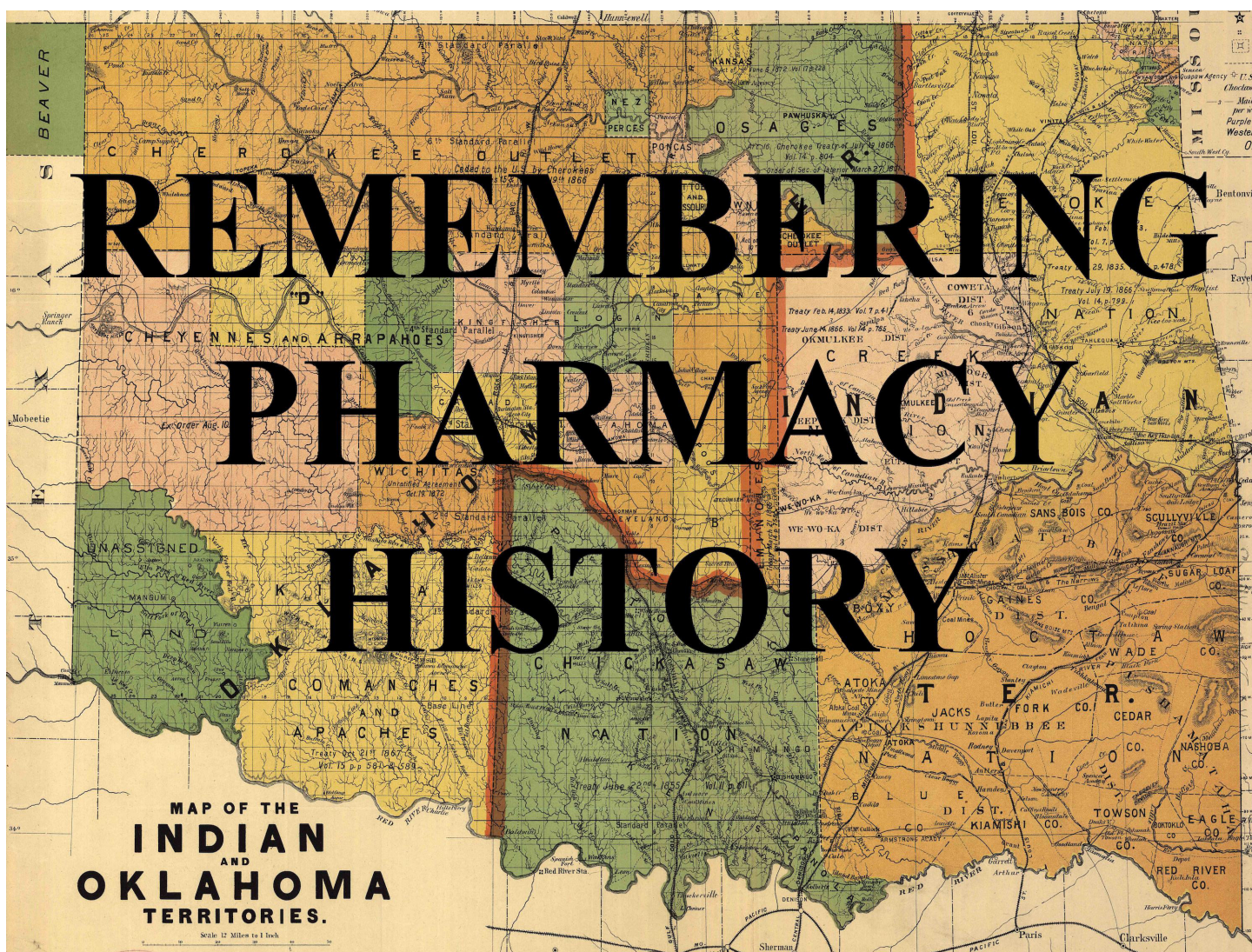
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PHARMACISTS OF OKLAHOMA TERRITORY

John Arnold Bilan, Walter Raleigh Franklin, Horace Osmond Hixon,
Jesse Orville Peek, and James Earl Walton



*Cover Logo based on an
1892 map of Indian and
Oklahoma Territories in the
United States Library of
Congress.*

PHARMACISTS OF OKLAHOMA TERRITORY

**John Arnold Bilan, Walter Raleigh Franklin, Horace Osmond Hixon,
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Carl K. Buckner
The University of Oklahoma
College of Pharmacy

John Arnold Bilan

John was born in Iowa City, Johnson County, Iowa, in 1875. His parents, Ludwick (or Louis) B. and Josephine (Soukup) Bilan immigrated to the United States from their home country of Czechoslovakia in 1872 and settled in Iowa soon after their arrival. John attended public schools in Iowa City until the early 1880s when the family migrated to Nebraska. In about 1888, they moved to Purcell, Chickasaw Nation, Indian Territory, where Ludwick was a gunsmith.



John Arnold Bilan. From The Lexington Leader, December, 1904.

Ludwick Bilan was also a violin maker and musician, organizing the first brass band in Purcell. His son John played cornet in the band. Patent number 645782 for a cotton picker was issued to Ludwick by the United States Patent Office on March 20, 1900.

On April 22, 1889, the day of the run for homesteads in the unassigned lands of the Indian Territory, John swam across the Canadian River before the designated start time. He was removed by federal troops there to look for early starters and, later, would be referred to as a “sooner.” Ludwick made the run in his wagon and staked a claim just across the river near the new town of Lexington, later a part of Cleveland County in Oklahoma Territory.

After completing his early schooling in Lexington, John went back to Nebraska and obtained a pharmacy degree. In 1897, he returned to Lexington and entered the drug business with his brother-in-law, Ernest Moore Abernathy. Ernest was a local entrepreneur who married John’s sister Mary and operated a general merchandise store that also carried drugs. When John came back from Nebraska, a new department, known as the Bilan & Abernathy Drug Store, was created in the store.

John passed the pharmacy examination given in Perry, Noble County, Oklahoma Territory, on January 18, 1898. Consequently, the Oklahoma Territory Board of Pharmacy gave John pharmacist certificate number 220. The Oklahoma State Board of Pharmacy issued John certificate number 93 at statehood.

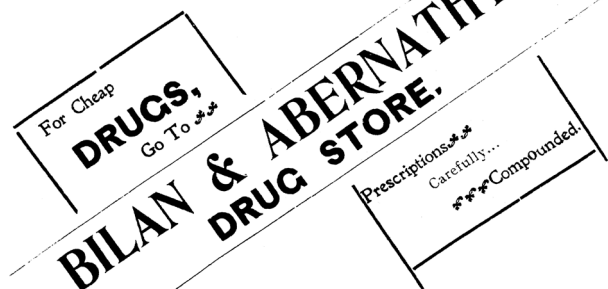
John and Ernest remained partners in the drug store until about 1900 when John sold his part of the business and spent two years in Europe. In May of 1906, John presented a summary of his travels at a meeting of the Oklahoma Territory Pharmaceutical Association in Guthrie.

Returning to Lexington in 1902, John purchased the drug stock belonging to J. W. Schenecker and went into business on his own. In 1908, John was vice-president of the newly formed Security State Bank in Lexing-

Our Patent Medicine.....

And other Departments cannot be surpassed by an ordinary Drug store, when you go to

BILAN & ABERNATHY'S
you always get just what you want.....



Has The Most...

COMPLETE stock of Drugs ever shown in Lexington. Our Prescription department is COMPLETE. We make a specialty of family recipes.



Advertisement by Bilan & Abernathy's Drug Store. From Cleveland County Leader (Lexington), January 28, 1899.

ton. Ernest Abernathy was president. When Ernest committed suicide in 1915, his wife Mary took charge of the bank and a substantial amount of property in Cleveland County. Mary Bilan Abernathy was the first woman to be elected treasurer of the Oklahoma Banker's Association.

In about 1909, John moved to Oklahoma City where he established the John Bilan & Company drug store. In March of 1909, he was one of the incorporators of the Bloomfield Drug and Physicians' Supply Company in Oklahoma City. In 1912, John was proprietor of the Maywood Pharmacy at 200 East Sixth Street in the city.

In about 1913, John married Helen B. (unknown surname) and they had two children, Ernestine and John. They moved to Seattle, King County, Washington, in about 1926, where John operated a drug store. He died in Seattle on October 31, 1943.

Walter Raleigh Franklin

Walter was born on January 9, 1876, in Carter County, Missouri. His mother, Elizabeth, was born in Missouri and, in about 1860, married his father James, who moved there from Virginia.



Walter Raleigh Franklin. From OPhA files.

Walter attended school in Carter County and came to Oklahoma in 1892. He lived in Oklahoma City and Union City before settling in McLoud, Pottawatomie County, Oklahoma Territory, in 1899. Walter was initially a saloon keeper, but became a partner in the Owl Drug Store in McLoud in 1904 after the death of one of the previous owners, Charles Harper Craddock. A partner in the Owl Drug Store with Walter was R. C. Kaylor, a physician who settled in McLoud in about 1900. Walter became sole owner of the drug store in about 1935.

In 1908, Walter married Goldie Kennedy, who came to McLoud in 1899 from Wapanucka, Chickasaw Nation, Indian Territory. They had no children of their own, but adopted a daughter, June, who was born in about 1915.

Walter passed the pharmacy examination given in October of 1915 on his second attempt and was issued certificate number 2766 by the Oklahoma State Board of Pharmacy. He was active in the Oklahoma Pharmaceutical Association (OPhA) and elected president of the organization in 1928.

Walter was involved in the civic and social affairs of McLoud, being a member of the Masonic Lodge and Baptist Church. He became interested in good roads and promoted the routing of Highway 270 through McLoud.

Walter died on August 31, 1943, and is buried in Shawnee's Fairview Cemetery alongside Goldie, who died in McLoud on February 26, 1968. At the time of his death, Walter was mayor of McLoud.

Horace Osmond Hixon

Horace was born in 1873 in Spencer, Owen County, Indiana. When he was eight years old, his parents, John W. and Augusta Hixon, moved the family to Iowa and then to Kansas, where the family lived until the early days of 1889. On April 22, 1889, the day of the opening of the unassigned lands in Indian Territory, they moved to the new town of Guthrie.



Horace Osmond Hixon. From Old Town Museum, Elk City, Oklahoma.

John W. Hixon was one of the early-day lawmen of Oklahoma Territory, having been a pioneer deputy United States Marshal in Seward County, Kansas, before coming to Guthrie. In 1890, he was a deputy United States Marshal in Guthrie. By 1892, John was Sheriff of Logan County and Horace, following his father's lead, was Chief Deputy Sheriff in Guthrie.

John Hixon is most remembered today for his role in leading a team of deputy marshals in a gunfight at Ingalls, Payne County, Oklahoma Territory, on September 1, 1893. The results of the "Battle of Ingalls" were the death of several lawmen, the dispersal of the Doolin-Dalton gang of outlaws, and the capture of one of the members of the so-called "Wild Bunch," Roy "Arkansas Tom" Daugherty.

Horace's brother, Alpha Charles (Charley) Hixon, was one year older and the first in the family to practice pharmacy in Guthrie. Not long after their arrival, Charley started learning about pharmacy by working in the drug stores of D. B. Kelly and of J. N. Wallace in Guthrie. In 1893, Charley became proprietor of the Eagle Drug Store in Guthrie and held it until the summer of 1895 when it was purchased by Edward Nichols.

Charley Hixon served as a United States Marshal after selling the drug store in Guthrie. Not long afterward, he moved to El Reno, Canadian County, Oklahoma, and then to Weleetka, Okfuskee County, Oklahoma. In both El Reno and Weleetka, he was employed as a general agent for a railroad company. For health reasons, Charley moved to California, where he died on November 26, 1930. He is buried in the Hollywood Forever Cemetery in Hollywood, Los Angeles County, California. Charley, leaving no descendants, was survived by his wife Florence, his brother Horace, and a sister Ada.

Charley Hixon was one the earliest licensed pharmacists in Oklahoma Territory. On February 26, 1891, the fourth day of the first session of the newly formed Oklahoma Territory Board of Pharmacy, he passed the pharmacy examination given in Guthrie and was issued certificate number 27. Horace learned pharmacy from Charley while working in the Hixon Drug Store in Guthrie. On October 1, 1895, Horace passed the pharmacy examination given in Perry on his second attempt and was issued certificate number 166. In 1908, the Oklahoma State Board of Pharmacy gave Charley and Horace certificate numbers 1148 and 1202, respectively.

Horace was one of the early settlers in Weatherford, Custer County, Oklahoma Territory, moving there at the end



Exterior of Horace Hixon's Elk Pharmacy, Elk City, Oklahoma Territory. From Old Town Museum, Elk City, Oklahoma.



Interior of Horace Hixon's Elk Pharmacy, Elk City. From Old Town Museum, Elk City, Oklahoma.

CHRISTMAS

AT

THE ELK PHARMACY.

We have undoubtedly the finest and nicest line of **HOLIDAY GOODS** ever displayed in this western country. Everything that we carry is strictly up-to-date and being displayed this year in all of the large cities as

STRICTLY NEW HOLIDAY GOODS.

If you are desirous of making a present that will be appreciated by the receiver, call in and we can fit you out.

WE ARE GIVING AWAY A VICTOR MONARCH TALKING MACHINE

as first prize, and a Handsomely Dressed, Life-like Doll as a second prize.

Come in and take a look at the dolls, listen to the Talking Machine, and we will tell you about it. As you no doubt already know we are as yet headquarters for Drugs, School Books, School Supplies, Clocks, Watches, Fine Jewelry, etc., etc.

ELK PHARMACY,

H. O. HIXON, PROP'R.
ELK CITY, OKLAHOMA

P. S. We have a Mantle Clock 22 inches high, 6 inch dial, 6 day wind, strikes the hour and half-hour, for \$2.25, that is a beauty. Come and ask our Jeweler about it.

Advertisement for Elk Pharmacy, Elk City. From Elk City Democrat, December 11, 1902.

of the nineteenth century. He was proprietor of a drug store in Weatherford until March 20, 1901, when he purchased a town lot in the new settlement of Elk City, Beckham County, Oklahoma Territory. This became the site of the first drug store in town, the Elk Pharmacy, which Horace owned and operated for many years.

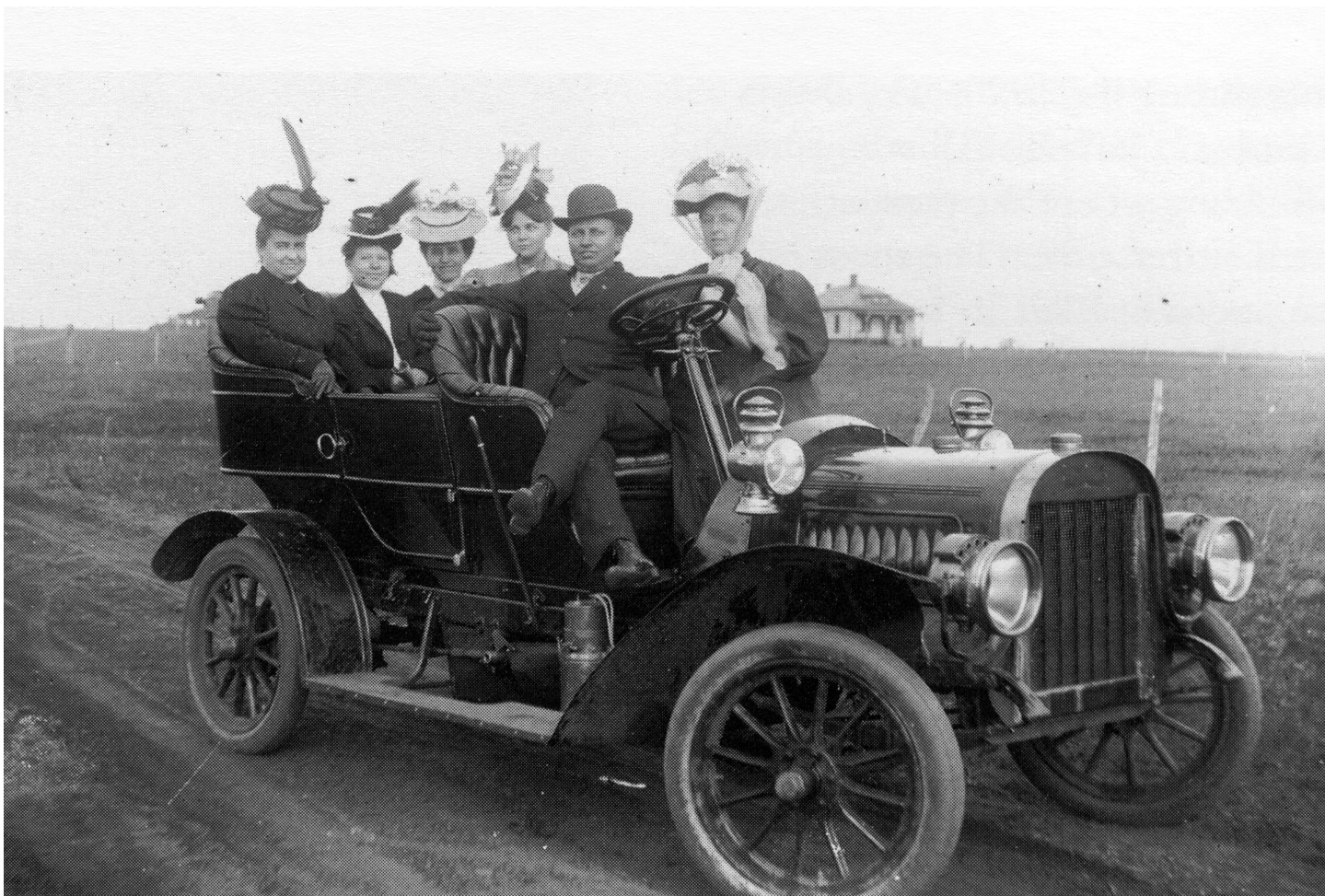
The *Elk City Statesman* of December 14, 1905, carried the following description of the location of the Elk Pharmacy: "Bounded on the north by Hewlett & Lilly, and the Diamond 'C', on the east by Keen's and the Dixie, on the south by Bonebrake Hardware Co., and completely surrounded by the best country in the United States."

In Elk City, Horace was a member of a band and played on the local baseball team. In May of 1901, he and three other musicians transmitted music to the Texas state line and to Weatherford over the telephone located at the town site company office. Horace was also involved in the community, serving Elk City as a councilman and, from 1909 to 1913, as mayor.

Horace was an active member of the pharmacy profession while in Elk City. He participated in the



Elk City baseball team and band. The man standing in the front middle of the picture has his hand on the shoulder of Horace Hixon. From Old Town Museum, Elk City, Oklahoma.



Early automobile owned by Horace Hixon, Elk City. Horace and Ethel Hixon in front seat. From Old Town Museum, Elk City, Oklahoma.

Oklahoma Territory Pharmaceutical Association (OTPhA), the Oklahoma Pharmaceutical Association (OPhA), and in the National Association of Retail Druggists (NARD, now Community Pharmacists Association, NCPA). At the 1898 annual meeting of the OTPhA in Guthrie, his paper entitled "Who is the Live Druggist?" was a prize winner. In his presentation, he spoke about how the pharmacist could create patronage and respect. Horace was elected second vice-president of the OTPhA at its annual meeting in 1906 and moved into the first vice-presidency the following year. His name was submitted on several occasions in nomination for membership on the board of pharmacy in Oklahoma Territory and in the state of Oklahoma. In the NARD, Horace was a member of standing committees on National Legislation and Window Display.

The Elk Pharmacy was sold to Henry M. Gregory in 1919 and Horace moved to Oklahoma City in the early 1920s. Later owners of the Elk City store were Paul Jones, Ivan Noakes, and Bryan Henry Potter. In Oklahoma City, Horace operated a drug store for a few years at 1706 North Broadway before retiring in the early 1930s.

At about the time that he moved to Elk City, Horace married Ethel Spencer, who was born in 1875 in Martinsburg, Keokuk County, Iowa. She came to Oklahoma Territory in 1898 to teach school at Taloga, Dewey County, Oklahoma Territory. Horace died in Oklahoma City on December 5, 1954. He is buried at Oklahoma City's Fairlawn Cemetery along with Ethel, who died on January 21, 1945. Horace and Ethel were survived by one child, Doris, who was married to George M. Peck.

Jesse Orville Peek

Jesse, a son of John William and Lou Ann (Bragg) Peek, was born on October 23, 1871, in St. Charles, Madison County, Iowa. His parents were born in Kentucky, married in the late 1860s, and were farming in Madison County at the time of his birth.

After attending public school in Truro, Madison County, Iowa, Jesse obtained practical experience in pharmacy by working in drug stores in Des Moines, Polk County, Iowa. In part, he learned the drug business from his brother Sammie, who was also a pharmacist. Jesse started learning pharmacy in 1889 and, on July 26, 1892, passed the pharmacy examination in Iowa on his second attempt. The Iowa Board of Pharmacy gave Jesse certificate number 4279 to practice pharmacy in the state. For the next thirteen years, Jesse worked in several drug stores in Iowa, including two years, beginning in November of 1893, in his own pharmacy. Most of his experiences in Iowa were obtained in drug stores in Winterset, Madison County.

In 1895, Jesse married Lulu Ida Likens in Barney, Madison County, Iowa. They had two daughters, Dorothy and Charlotte, both born in Iowa, and two sons, Eldon and Floyd, both born in Oklahoma.

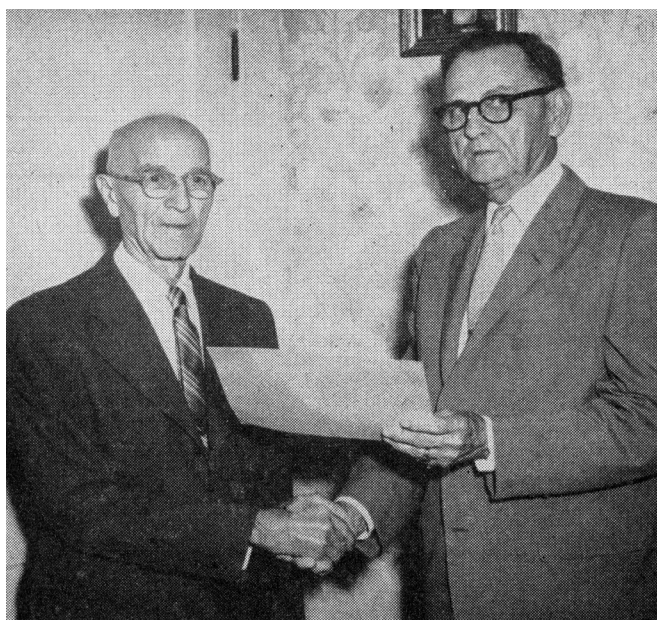
Jesse and Lulu moved to Wellston, Lincoln County, Oklahoma Territory, in 1905, where Jesse worked in a local drug store. In July of 1919, he started working as a pharmacist at the Tiger Drug and Book Company store in Stillwater, Payne County, Oklahoma. After working at Tiger Drug for eight years, Jesse decided to reciprocate his pharmacy license from Iowa. At the completion of the application process through the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP) in November of 1927, he was issued certificate number 4175 by the Oklahoma State Board of Pharmacy.

Jesse continued to work at Tiger Drug, but eventually practiced pharmacy in several stores in Stillwater. He was manager of the Diamond Pharmacy and Central Drug in Stillwater at various times during his career. He retired in 1941.

On July 13, 1959, Jesse died at the home of his daughter, Charlotte McCarty, in El Dorado, Union County,



Jesse Orville Peek, 1927. From ODL files.



In 1958, about sixty-six years after becoming registered as a pharmacist in Iowa, Jesse Peek (left) received his fifty year Gold Certificate from OPhA Secretary, Pete Weaver. From OPhA files.

Arkansas. He is buried in Fairlawn Cemetery in Stillwater beside Lulu, who died on January 19, 1946.

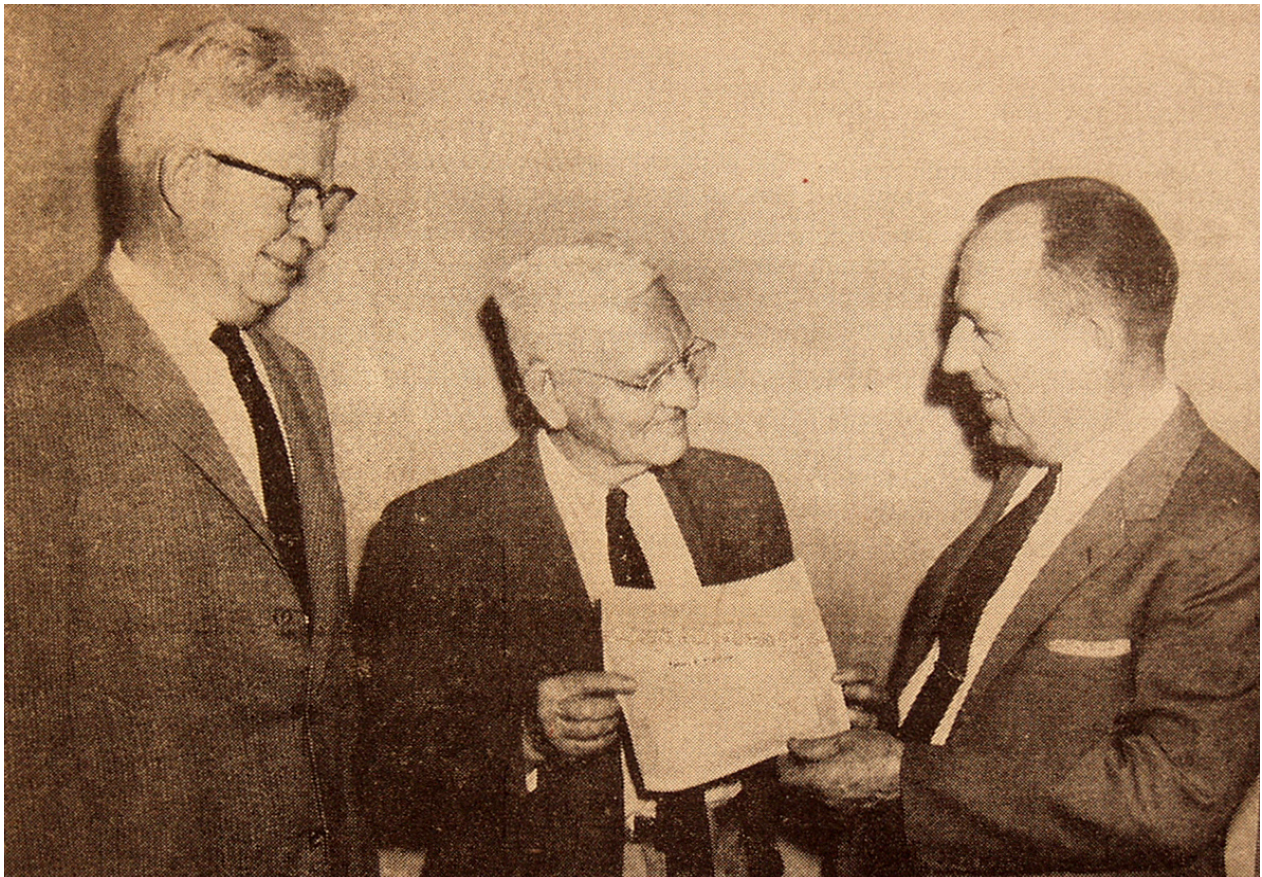
James Earl Walton

Known commonly as “Earl,” he was born on June 2, 1884, in Diggins, Webster County, Missouri. Both of his parents, Samuel William and Clara Etta (Layton) Walton, were also born in Missouri, their parents having migrated there from Virginia. Samuel and his first wife, Laura, had seven children before she died in about 1880. Samuel and his second wife, Clara, were married in Diggins on December 25, 1883. Earl was the first of their three sons.

Thomas Gibson, the youngest of the three sons of Samuel and Clara Walton, was born on June 23, 1892. Clara and Samuel died shortly thereafter, on January 26, 1894, and on September 10, 1894, respectively. They are buried in the Seymour Masonic Cemetery, Webster County, Missouri. Thomas Gibson was the father of Samuel Moore Walton, the founder of Wal-Mart, a mercantile chain based in Arkansas.

After their parents died, Earl and his brothers lived with relatives. Earl and his half-sister, Mollie, came to Kingfisher, Kingfisher County, Oklahoma Territory, in 1895 to live with their uncle James W. Walton. Mollie, ten years older than Earl, finished high school in Kingfisher and taught in the Kingfisher school system. She was eventually able to help support her three half brothers.

Earl graduated from Kingfisher High School in 1904 and attended the School of Pharmacy at The University of Oklahoma (OU) in Norman. He obtained a Pharmaceutical Chemist (Ph.G.) diploma from OU in 1906. Based



James Earl Walton (center) received his fifty year pharmacy certificate in 1960 from Ralph Enix (right) with Kingfisher Chamber of Commerce president F. C. Lattimer observing. From The Kingfisher Times, May 12, 1960.



James Earl Walton's OPhA membership certificate, issued when C. S. Younkman was president between 1914 and 1916. From Oklahoma Frontier Drug Store Museum, Guthrie, Oklahoma

Walton's Drug Store

(SUCCESSOR TO TINCHER & WALTON)

**And we are here to stay and to give you pure
Drugs, Paints and Wall Paper**

**Remember, we have the MENTHOLATED
Cough Syrup (diamond shape bottle) that
you need to stop that cough**

Walton's Drug Store

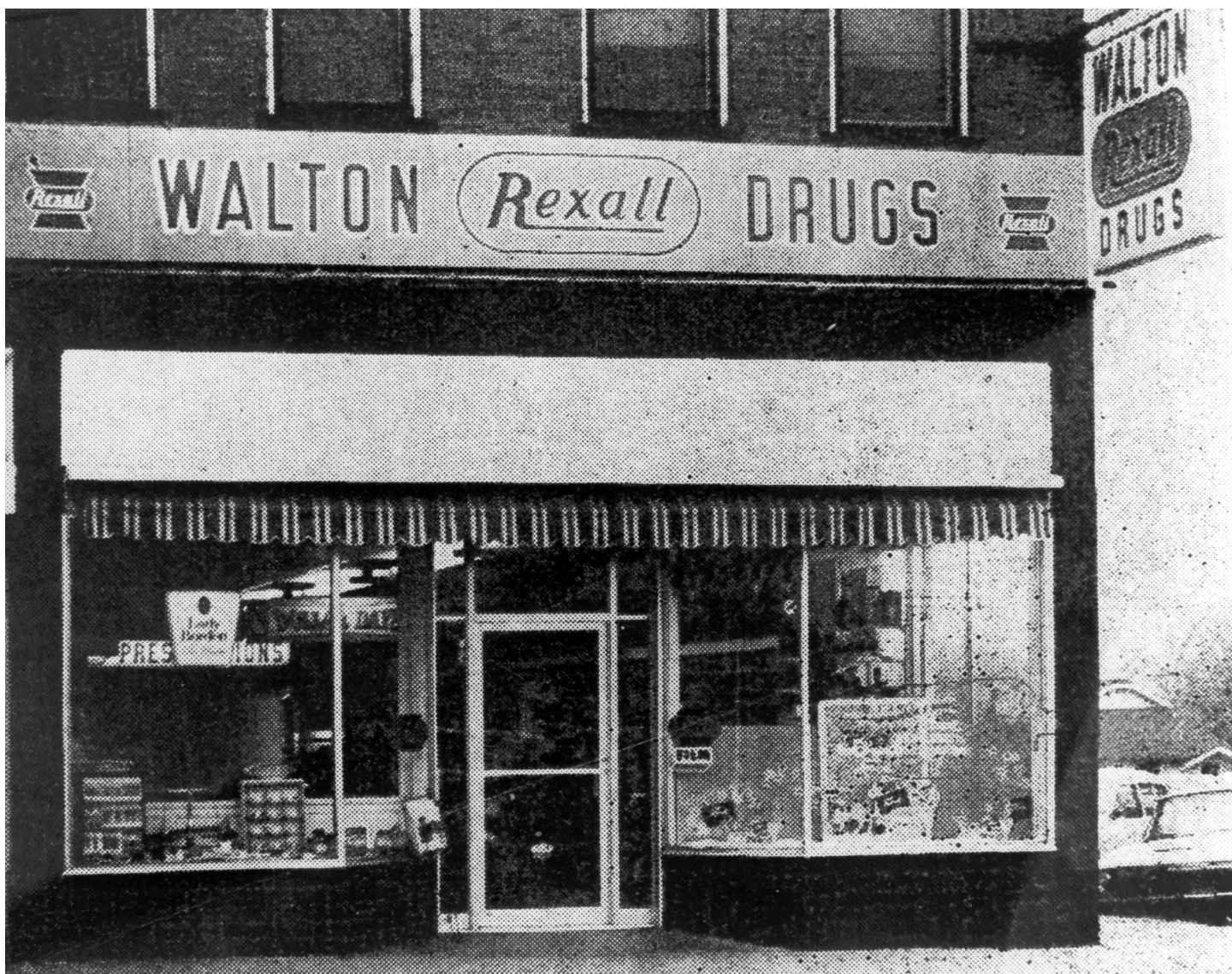
(Successor to Tinchier & Walton)

Drugs, Paints and Wall Paper

Advertisement by Earl Walton after he became sole proprietor of the drug store in Kingfisher. From Kingfisher Weekly Star and Free Press, January 20, 1910.

on his diploma, Earl was issued pharmacist certificate number 793 by the Oklahoma Territory Board of Pharmacy in July of 1906. At statehood, a certificate was not sent to him by the Oklahoma State Board of Pharmacy because of non-payment of the required fee. In 1933, he paid the one dollar fee to receive certificate number 4691 from the board.

Earl obtained pharmacy experience working in Joseph E. Tinchier's drug store, one of the earliest to be established in Kingfisher, before he graduated from high school. After receiving his diploma from OU, he worked for a short time in the Smith and Sommers Drug Store at Lahoma, Garfield County, Oklahoma Territory. Soon, however, he returned to Kingfisher to manage the Tinchier Drug Store for the ailing proprietor. In May of 1909, Tinchier sold Earl a one-half interest in the store and it became known as the Tinchier & Walton Drug Store. On January 10, 1910, Earl bought the other half of the drug store and became sole proprietor.



Entrance to Walton Rexall Drugs at Main and Admire in Kingfisher. From The University of Oklahoma College of Pharmacy, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Joe Tincher's store was established in Kingfisher shortly after the run for homesteads in the unassigned lands of the Indian Territory on April 22, 1889. Joe came to Kingfisher on that day from Nescatunga, Comanche County, Kansas, where he had started a drug store in 1883. Consequently, the drug store that eventually became Walton's had one of the longest lineages of any in the Oklahoma Territory. Joe Tincher moved to Oklahoma City where he died before 1920.

Earl expanded his drug store in Kingfisher in 1918 into an adjacent building which he purchased. On March 1, 1922, he moved his drug store into a building at Main and Admire. The store was in this location when he sold it in 1965 to Joe Frank Moad of Cheyenne.

Earl was well-known and respected in Kingfisher as well as in the state of Oklahoma. He was active in the local Rotary Club, serving as president of the organization in 1938. Also, he was a member of the congregation and choir at the Methodist Church in Kingfisher.

As a member of the pharmacy community, Earl maintained membership in the Oklahoma Pharmaceutical Association (OPhA) and in the National Association of Retail Druggists (NARD, now the National Community

Pharmacists Association, NCPA). In 1960, he was belatedly given his 50 year pharmacy certificate from the Oklahoma State Board of Pharmacy.

Earl's first wife, Edna Lenora, died in 1925 and he married Helen Price on September 15, 1935. Earl and Helen had two sons, Keith L. and James Lyle. The latter was registered as a pharmacist by the Oklahoma State Board of Pharmacy in 1963 and given certificate number 7171.

Earl died on April 23, 1965, and is buried in the Kingfisher Cemetery along with Edna Lenora.

Acknowledgements

The author expresses appreciation for support to Bilan family member Patricia Warren, to Mark and Pam Ekiss at the Oklahoma Frontier Drug Store Museum, Guthrie, Oklahoma, to the McClain County Historical and Genealogical Society, Purcell, Oklahoma, and to the Old Town Museum Complex, Elk City, Oklahoma. Also, thanks to Jan Davis, Carol Williams, Linda Raulston, Linda Colbert, and Colleen Greene, professionals in the Archives and Records Division at the Oklahoma Department of Libraries (ODL) in Oklahoma City, for their help.

Bibliographic

Information and images for these biographies were collected from many sources, including files at the Oklahoma Pharmacists Association (OPhA) office in Oklahoma City as well as various issues of Meyer Brothers Druggist, Pharmaceutical Era, NARD Notes, Southern Pharmaceutical Journal, The Midwestern Druggist, The National Druggist, The Western Druggist, and newspapers from Oklahoma City, Lexington, Norman, Purcell, McLoud, Shawnee, Weleetka, Elk City, Stillwater, Guthrie, and Kingfisher, Oklahoma. A profile for Walter Raleigh Franklin was found in Rex Francis Harlow and Victor Emmanuel Harlow, *Makers of Government in Oklahoma*. (Oklahoma City, Harlow Publishing Company, 1930): 694. Biographical information for James Earl Walter was found in Vance H. Trimble, "Sam Walton. The Inside Story of America's Richest Man" (New York, Penguin, 1990) and Sam Walton, "Sam Walton, Made in America. My Story" (New York, Doubleday, 1992). The ERA and Hayes Druggists directories have been used as aids to trace pharmacy locations in Oklahoma and United States census records to trace family locations and data. Especially beneficial for biographical information have been pharmacist applications for licensure as well as records of the Oklahoma Territory, Indian Territory, and Oklahoma State Boards of Pharmacy located in the Archives and Records Division of the Oklahoma Department of Libraries (ODL).